

- iii) AGG TCA NNN TGA CCT (SEQ ID NO:1); and
- iv) functional variants of i-iii

such as to modulate the level of said gene, thereby modulating fat tissue growth and/or weight gain in said animal.

33. (Amended) A method of treating and/or preventing obesity, comprising administering to an obese animal, or an animal susceptible of becoming obese, an agent which modulates the promoter activity of a promoter comprising a cis-acting element selected from the group consisting of:

- i) an estrogen response element;
- ii) TGA AGG TCA (SEQ ID NO:2);
- iii) AGG TCA NNN TGA CCT (SEQ ID NO:1); and
- iv) functional variants of i-iii

wherein cis-acting element is capable of binding to $ERR\alpha$.